

ernment at that time, the Secret Service drew the job of protecting President Theodore Roosevelt and his successors. The protection was extended to the President-elect in 1913, to members of the President's family in 1917 and to the Vice President, at his request, in 1951.

Members of the Secret Service are duty-bound to sacrifice their own lives if necessary to protect the White House family and the Vice President.

The first agent killed on Presidential duty was William Craig, who was fatally injured in 1902 when a trolley car in Lenox, Mass., collided with the President's carriage. A bullet aimed at President Franklin Delano Roosevelt grazed the hand of a Secret Service agent and killed Mayor Anton Cermak of Chicago in 1932. A plaque at the entrance of Blair House diagonally across the street from the White House reads:

"In honor of Leslie Coffelt, White House guard who gave his life in the defense of the President of the United States here at Blair House, November 1, 1950."

Pvt. Coffelt was a member of the uniformed White House Police Force which is charged with protecting the White House building and grounds under supervision of the chief of the Secret Service. Two other White House policemen--Corpl. Joseph H. Downs and Donald E. Birdzell--were critically wounded as White House police and Secret Service agents shot it out with two Puerto Rican Nationalists attempting to kill President Truman.

Agents have shared joy and sorrow, adventure and death with their Presidential charges. They had to follow President Wilson when he was courting Mrs. Edith Bolling Galt. They kept the vigil with President Coolidge at his dying son's bedside. When President Roosevelt lapsed into unconsciousness, it was an agent who summoned a doctor to his side. Agents had traveled with him through submarine-infested waters to his wartime conferences at Casablanca, Teheran and Yalta, as they later flew with President-elect Eisenhower to the front lines of the Korean War.

Because this is a free country and its chief executive can-